

edly seen" on the way south from the Aleutians is supposed to have been *Cymochorea melana* (Bp.) Coues. In the same course, for nearly a thousand miles "scarcely a day passed but a Petrel with the belly white" was seen: this is identified as *Fregatta grallaria*, not impossibly correctly, though the identification of most Petrels on the wing is too difficult to make this case satisfactory.

Colymbus adamsi and *C. pacificus* are both given, as full species, and as occurring besides *C. torquatus* and *C. arcticus*.

Of *Alcidae*, no fewer than fifteen representatives are given, *Synthliboramphus wurmezusume* not included. The most important point in this connection is made in the rediscovery and perfect identification of *Brachyrhamphus kittlitzii* of Brandt, long a doubtful bird to American ornithologists, no specimen being known in this country. Mr. Nelson took one in breeding plumage in the spring of 1877, at Ounalaska, and afterward another was secured by Mr. Turner further west in the Aleutian chain. We have had the pleasure of handling Mr. Nelson's specimen, among many other of his birds kindly submitted to our inspection. It is certainly distinct from any Auk known to us when our monograph of the family was prepared, and we have no doubt of the accuracy of the identification which has been made. A colored plate will probably be published in another connection.

What general criticism we might pass upon this notable paper would add nothing to its value, and may be gathered from what has preceded. Obscure as it is upon some points, and much as it lacks of detailed information respecting the nesting and eggs of sundry notable Arctic birds, we cannot be too thankful for what we are here given of novelty, variety, and interest. We should not omit to add that it is illustrated with four colored plates, executed by Mr. Ridgway, representing *Motacilla ocularis*, *Lanius cristatus*, *Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*, and *Ciceronia pusilla*, all of life size and equally handsome. — E. C.

Cory's Beautiful and Curious Birds.—The recent appearance of Part VII completes the work, which consists of twenty plates, with accompanying text. Ten of the plates relate to as many species of Birds of Paradise; others include the Dodo, the Kiwi (*Apteryx australis*), the Lyre Bird, the Ruff, the Spotted Bower Bird, the Black-headed Plover or Crocodile Bird, and the Sacred Ibis, besides such American species as the Great Auk, the Labrador Duck, and the California Condor. The plates, in part drawn and lithographed by the well-known bird-artist Smidt, are superb illustrations of some of the most striking forms of bird-life. While not, from the nature of the subjects, of high scientific value, it is a work of art and natural history combined, and as such will be welcomed by lovers of birds and fine books. It is dedicated to Mr. J. A. Allen.—W. B.

Stejneger and Ridgway on Birds of the Commander Islands.—In a letter* dated Bering Island, September 30, 1882, addressed to Prof. Baird,

* Contributions to the History of the Commander Islands. No. I. Notes on the Natural History, including Descriptions of New Cetaceans. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1883, pp. 58-89. July 21, 1883.